

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner all pending claims of the present Application are shown below whether an amendment has been made or not. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An advanced voting system, comprising:

an election key generator operable to generate an election key storing information related to a voter, the election key generator further operable to store one or more ballot questions customized for the particular voter on the election key, the ballot questions relating to one or more candidates or a referendum to be voted on by the particular voter;

one or more computing devices operable to:

interface with the election key;

retrieve ~~information~~ the customized ballot questions from the election key;

present the customized ballot questions to the voter ~~based on the information retrieved from the election key;~~ and

receive interactive voter selections from the voter; and

a ballot generator operable to generate tangible encoded ballots encoded with the voter selections.

2. **(Previously Amended)** The system of Claim 1, further comprising one or more data storage locations operable to store a plurality of registrations records, each registration record includes a digitized voter signature.

3. **(Previously Amended)** The system of Claim 1, further comprising one or more data storage locations operable to store a plurality of registrations records, each registration record includes at least one biometric sample.

4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Previously Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more computing devices are further operable to use the information retrieved from the election key to identify ballot questions stored at the computing device that are appropriate for the voter.

6. **(Previously Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the information stored in the election key comprises a digital signature; and
the one or more computing devices are further operable to present the ballot question to the voter only if an appropriate digital signature is retrieved from the election key.

7. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the election key comprises a bar-coded card, a magnetic strip card, a writeable optical storage disc, or a magnetic storage disc.

8. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is operable to store one or more voter selections in a voting record.

9. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the voting record comprises a unique identifier linking the voting record to a particular computing device.

10. **(Original)** The system of Claim 8, wherein the voting record comprises a digital signature particular to the voter's precinct.

11. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is further operable to receive voter selections by human touch on a monitor.

12. **(Previously Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is further operable to present interactive help screens in a voter-selectable language.

13. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is further operable to generate recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language.

14. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is further operable to compare the identifying information stored in a registration record to identifying information provided by the voter at the time of voting.

15. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the encoded ballot is operable to store a unique identifier to link the ballot to a particular computing device.

16. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the encoded ballot is operable to store a digital signature particular to the voter's precinct.

17. **(Previously Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the encoded ballot is operable to store an anonymous voter identifier to link the encoded ballot to the voter.

18. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more computing devices are operable to audit whether an appropriate number of selections has been made by the voter as governed by election laws and the particular ballot questions.

19. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more computing devices are personal digital assistants.

20. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises a tallying system, the tallying system operable to:

receive voter selections of a plurality of voters from one or more of the computing devices;

electronically tally the voter selections to reach one or more ballot question totals; and

audit the one or more ballot question totals using the encoded ballots encoded with the voter's selections.

21. **(Previously Amended)** The system of Claim 20, wherein:
the tallying system further comprises an encoded ballot reader operable to tally voter selections encoded on a plurality of encoded ballots; and
auditing the ballot question totals comprises comparing tally of votes from encoded ballots with the electronic tally of votes.

22. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises a tallying system, the tallying system comprising:
a voting record stored on one or more of the computing devices, the voting record comprising one or more voter selections from a plurality of voters; and
a tallying computer operable to communicate with the voting record and electronically tally voter selections to reach one or more ballot question totals.

23. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises a tallying system, the tallying system operable to:
receive voter selections of a plurality of voters from one or more of the computing devices;
store a voting record on one or more of the computing devices, the voting record comprising one or more voter selections from a plurality of voters;
electronically tally the voter selections using a tallying computer to reach one or more ballot question totals; and
audit the one or more ballot question totals using the encoded ballots encoded with the voter's selections.

24. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises at least one encoded ballot reader, each encoded ballot reader operable to tally voter selections of a plurality of voters encoded on encoded ballots.

25. **(Previously Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises at least one encoded ballot reader, each encoded ballot reader operable to present the voter selections encoded on the encoded ballot to the voter to allow the voter to verify the voter selections.

Claim

26. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the one or more computing devices are further operable to present an option to a voter allowing the voter to choose to write-in one or more voter selections; and
the ballot generator is further operable to create a write-in selection space on the encoded ballot.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A method for advanced voting, comprising:
generating an election key using an election key generator, the election key storing information related to a voter and one or more ballot questions customized for the particular voter, the ballot questions relating to one or more candidates or a referendum to be voted on by the particular voter;

retrieving ~~information related to the voter~~ the customized ballot questions from the election key at a voting booth;

presenting the customized ballot questions to the voter ~~based on the information retrieved from the election key at the voting booth;~~

receiving interactive voter selections from the voter at the voting booth;

generating tangible encoded ballots encoded with the voter selections using a ballot generator; and

electronically tallying voter selections by a plurality of voters.

28. **(Previously Amended)** The method of 27, further comprising storing a plurality of registration records in a data storage location, wherein each registration record includes a digitized voter signature.

29. **(Previously Amended)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising storing a plurality of registration records in a data storage location, wherein each registration record includes at least one biometric sample.

30. **(Cancelled)**

31. **(Cancelled)**

32. **(Previously Amended)** The method of 27, wherein:
the information stored in the election key comprises a digital signature; and
the ballot questions are presented to the voter only if an appropriate digital signature is retrieved from the election key.

33. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, wherein the election key comprises a bar-coded card, a magnetic strip card, a writeable optical storage disc, or a magnetic storage disc.

34. **(Original)** The method of 27, further comprising storing one or more voter selections in a voting record.

35. **(Original)** The method of Claim 34, wherein the voting record comprises a unique identifier linking the voting record to a particular voting booth.

36. **(Original)** The method of Claim 34, wherein the voting record comprises a digital signature particular to the voter's precinct.

37. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising receiving the voter selections by human touch on a monitor.

38. **(Previously Amended)** The method of 27, further comprising presenting interactive help screens in a voter-selectable language.

39. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising generating recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language.

40. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising comparing the identifying information stored in a registration record to identifying information provided by the voter at the time of voting.

41. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising auditing whether an appropriate number of selections has been made by the voter as governed by election laws and the particular ballot questions.

42. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
electronically tallying voter selections by a plurality of voters to reach one or more ballot question totals; and
auditing the one or more ballot question totals using the encoded ballots encoded with the voter's selections.

43. **(Original)** The method of Claim 42, wherein tallying voter selections further includes detecting irregularities in voter selections.

44. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
storing one or more voter selections from a plurality of voters at the voting booth; and
communicating the voting record to a tallying computer, the tallying computer operable to electronically tally voter selections to reach one or more ballot question totals.

45. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
receiving voter selections of a plurality of voters from one or more of the computing devices;
storing a voting record on one or more of the computing devices, the voting record comprising one or more voter selections from a plurality of voters;
electronically tallying the voter selections using a tallying computer to reach one or more ballot question totals; and
auditing the one or more ballot question totals using the encoded ballots encoded with the voter's selections.

46. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
presenting the voter with the option of choosing to write-in the voter selections; and
providing a write-in selection space on the encoded ballot.

47. **(Previously Cancelled)**

48. (Currently Amended) An advanced voting system, comprising:

means for generating an election key, the election key storing information related to a voter and one or more ballot questions customized for the particular voter, the ballot questions relating to one or more candidates or a referendum to be voted on by the particular voter;

means for interfacing with the election key and retrieving ~~information related to each voter~~ the customized ballot questions from the election key;

means for presenting the customized ballot questions to the voter ~~based on the information retrieved from the election key;~~

means for receiving interactive voter selections from the voter; and

means for generating tangible encoded ballots encoded with the voter's selections.

49. **(Currently Amended)** Advanced voting software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to:

receive information related to a voter from an election key, the information comprising one or more ballot questions customized for the particular voter, the ballot questions relating to one or more candidates or a referendum to be voted on by the particular voter;

present the customized ballot questions ~~based on the information retrieved from the election key;~~

receive interactive voter selections from the voter; and
generate tangible encoded ballots encoded with the voter selections.

50. **(Cancelled)**

51. **(Cancelled)**

52. **(Previously Amended)** The software of Claim 49, further operable to:
receive a digital signature from the election key; and
present the ballot question to the voter only if an appropriate digital signature is received from the election key.

53. **(Original)** The software of Claim 49, further operable to receive voter selections by human touch on a monitor.

54. **(Previously Amended)** The software of Claim 49, further operable to present interactive help in a voter-selectable language.

55. **(Original)** The software of Claim 49, further operable to generate recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language.

56. **(Original)** The software of Claim 49, further operable to audit whether an appropriate number of selections has been made by the voter as governed by election laws and the particular ballot questions.

57. **(Original)** The software of Claim 49, further operable to:
present an option to the voter allowing a voter to choose to write-in the voter selections; and
generating a write-in selection space on the encoded ballot.

58. **(Previously Cancelled)**

59. **(Previously Added)** The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the encoded voter selections on the encoded ballot are machine-readable.

60. **(Previously Added)** The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the encoded voter selections on the encoded ballot are human-readable.

61. **(Previously Added)** The system of Claim 60, wherein the portion of the encoded voter selections that are human-readable are also machine-readable.

62. **(Previously Added)** The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the computing device further comprises a touch-sensitive screen operable to receive voter selections when a voter touches a location on the screen; and
the computing device is further operable to determine a voter selection regardless of where the voter touches the touch-sensitive screen.

63. **(Previously Added)** The system of Claim 62, wherein the computing device is further operable to:

broadcast recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language to the voter before receiving the interactive voter selections from the voter, the recorded auditory instructions comprising a plurality of recorded prompts instructing the voter on how to enter a voter selection; and

determine the intent of the voter by associating the time proximity between when the recorded prompt was broadcasted to the voter and when the screen was touched.

64. **(Previously Added)** The system of Claim 62, wherein the computing device is further operable to:

Next
broadcast recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language to the voter after receiving the interactive voter selections from the voter, the auditory instructions giving a voter a choice between reviewing one or more previously made voter selections associated with a previous ballot question or skipping forward to a next ballot question;

receive voter selections from an input device coupled to the computing device, the input device being in addition to the touch-sensitive screen; and

process the voter choice as received by the input device.

65. **(Previously Added)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the voter selections are encoded on the encoded ballot using a barcode.

66. **(Previously Added)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
reading the encoded ballot using an encoded ballot reader; and
presenting voter selections encoded on the encoded ballot to the voter to allow the voter to verify the voter selections.

67. **(Previously Added)** The method of Claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the encoded voter selections on the encoded ballot are machine-readable.

68. **(Previously Added)** The method of Claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the encoded voter selections on the encoded ballot are human-readable.

69. **(Previously Added)** The method of Claim 68, wherein the portion of the encoded voter selections that are human-readable are also machine-readable.

70. **(Previously Added)** The method of Claim 42, wherein auditing the one or more ballot question totals comprises verifying the number of electronically tallied voter selections by comparing the number of electronically tallied voter selections with the number of encoded ballots.

71. **(Previously Added)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
receiving voter selections on a touch-sensitive screen when a voter touches a location on the screen; and
determining a voter selection regardless of where the voter touches the touch-sensitive screen.

72. **(Previously Added)** The method of Claim 71, further comprising:
broadcasting recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language to the voter before receiving the interactive voter selections from the voter, the recorded auditory instructions comprising a plurality of recorded prompts instructing the voter on how to enter a voter selection; and

determining the intent of the voter by associating the time proximity between when the recorded prompt was broadcasted to the voter and when the screen was touched.

73. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 71 ~~72~~, further comprising:

Amended
broadcasting recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language to the voter after receiving the interactive voter selections from the voter, the auditory instructions giving a voter a choice between reviewing one or more previously made voter selections associated with a previous ballot question or skipping forward to a next ballot question;

receiving voter selections from an input device coupled to the computing device, the input device being in addition to the touch-sensitive screen; and

processing the voter choice as received by the input device.

74. **(Previously Added)** The method of Claim 27, wherein the voter selections are encoded on the encoded ballot using a barcode.